

Wilson: "The American people deserve this opportunity to have their voices heard."

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"America is a country rich in energy resources and technology," said Rep. Wilson. "We are at an exciting moment in our history where the technology needed to use our natural resources in an environmentally sound way has arrived. The same innovation that is driving the development of alternative energy resources and helping our nation become more efficient is also revolutionizing how we can extract oil and natural gas from the ground."

"We should be investing in American energy and encouraging all of these efforts. If we use American resources and our talents to better ourselves and help America prosper, we will have created a stronger nation for our children. I call on Speaker Pelosi to bring comprehensive energy legislation to the floor immediately and lift the ban on off-shore drilling. The American people deserve this opportunity to have their voices heard."

The Washington Post's editorial outlined how Speaker Pelosi has refused to even hold a vote on allowing American energy exploration. Here is the editorial in its entirety:

The Washington Post

No Drilling, No Vote

EDITORIAL: Friday, July 25, 2008

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WHY NOT have a vote on offshore drilling? There's a serious debate to be had over whether Congress should lift the

ban on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf that has been in place since 1981. Unfortunately, you won't be hearing it in the House of Representatives -- certainly, you won't find lawmakers voting on it -- anytime soon.

Instead of dealing with the issue on the merits, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), a staunch opponent of offshore drilling, has simply decreed that she will not allow a drilling vote to take place on the House floor. Why not? "What the president would like to do is to have validation for his failed policy," she said yesterday when asked that very question. "What we're saying is, 'Exhaust other remedies, Mr. President.' . . . It is the economic life of America's families, and to suggest that drilling offshore is going to make a difference to them paycheck to paycheck now is a frivolous contention. The president has even admitted that. So what we're saying is, 'What can we do that is constructive?'"

If there is an explanation buried in there about why that makes offshore drilling off-limits for a vote, we missed it. Ms. Pelosi is correct that drilling is no panacea for the nation's energy woes. The short-term effect of lifting the moratorium, if there were any, would be minimal. That doesn't mean the country shouldn't consider expanded drilling as one of many alternatives. There are legitimate concerns about the environmental impact of such drilling -- environmental concerns that, we would note, exist in other regions whose oil Americans are perfectly happy to consume. But have technological improvements made such drilling less risky? Why not have that debate?

When they took the majority, House Democrats proclaimed that "bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full and fair debate consisting of a full amendment process that grants the Minority the right to offer its alternatives." Why not on drilling?

Meanwhile, the dispute has snarled progress on spending bills for fear of having drilling amendments attached. Citing "the uncertainty in how the oil and gas drilling issue is currently playing out on the Senate floor," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) called off committee consideration of spending bills on which Republicans were threatening to offer drilling amendments. The result threatens to be the first time since at least 1950 that lawmakers will go home for the August recess without either chamber having passed a single appropriations bill.

If drilling opponents really have the better of this argument, why are they so worried about letting it come to a vote?

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